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MY LITTLE PONY III

"Spike At Your Service"

Episode 307

Written by

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TEASER

INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - DAY

RARITY is in her shop checking herself in the mirror, trying on A NEW HAT. She frowns, adjusting it one way, then another, then another, growing increasingly frustrated and disappointed. SPIKE stands nearby, looking on adoringly.

1 RARITY
I spent hours making this hat but now I think it's wretched. What do you think, Spike?

2 SPIKE
Wow, I love it, too. It's like the most wretched thing I've ever seen.

Rarity BLINKS at Spike for a beat.

3 RARITY
Wretched means terrible, Spike. Awful, an absolute abomination. *

4 SPIKE
(sheepish) *
Oh. *

5 RARITY *
Perhaps a well-selected accoutrement can salvage this travesty. A ribbon perhaps? *

6 SPIKE *
I'll fetch a ribbon! *

Spike rushes over to some NEARBY BOXES and starts RUMMAGING noisily through them... then RUMMAGES some more.

7 RARITY *
That won't be necessary. I can find--

CRASH! Spike knocks over a lamp as he continues to RUMMAGE. Rarity winces. *

8 RARITY (CONT'D) *
Really, Spike, you don't need to--

9 SPIKE *
I insist. You said you needed a ribbon, and I will find you one. Just not sure which one. *

Spike considers the box of ribbons.

*

10 RARITY
Well, I have on a turquoise hat, maroon
pantaloons, and an aqua sash. Of course
a cobalt ribbon would be best!
(then)
But, really, I can retrieve it myself.

*

*

*

11 SPIKE
Won't be necessary. Spike is on the case.

*

Spike blocks her path and RUNS to the BOX OF BLUISH
RIBBONS, and pulls one of the rolls out of it.

12 RARITY
That's not cobalt. That's azure.

Spike offers another roll.

13 RARITY (CONT'D)
Nope. That's indigo.

With undiminished enthusiasm, Spike reaches into the box
and pulls out roll after roll of ribbon, through..

14 RARITY (CONT'D)
Nope, cerulean.
(then)
Nope, cornflower.
(then)
Nope, beryl...

15 SPIKE
Wow, Rarity. You know so many cool crazy
color names!
(holds up another)
I can't wait to find out what this one's
called.

16 RARITY
That's blue.

17 SPIKE
Oh.

Spike flashes an embarrassed smile.

*

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER.

*

MAIN TITLES

ACT I

INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - LATER

APPLEJACK is in Rarity's shop trying on a new pair of rubber boots Rarity made.

18 APPLEJACK
Thanks for making me these new boots,
Rarity. **H**ow I itch to get back to
workin' the land with these babies on.
Why, they're just about perfect.

*

19 RARITY
Yes, well, I paid special attention to
the stitching to ensure that it would
hold without drawing attention away from
the glossy finish of the leather trim.

20 APPLEJACK
(stomping around in them)
All the**y** need is one teeny tiny thing.

*

Applejack crosses over to Rarity's windowsill, through...

21 RARITY
Oh, I think I see what you mean. A pearl
inlay. No, wait, I know - I can emboss
it with an ever-so-subtle paisley -

Applejack uses mud from Rarity's recently-watered potted plants to SPLORTCH mud all over her new boots.

22 RARITY (CONT'D)
Gaaah!!!!

23 APPLEJACK
There. Perfect. What good's a pair of
work boots if they ain't a total mess, am
I right?

24 RARITY
(horrified)
If you... say so...

SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH... Applejack is by now serenely shoving her feet deep into the PLANT MUD.

25 APPLEJACK
Ooh, that's good.

26 RARITY
(squeaking)
I can't watch.

Rarity squeezes her eyes closed just as Spike enters.

27 SPIKE
Rarity, I -

28 RARITY
(startled)
Yaaaah!

Rarity STUMBLES backward, CRASHING into LAMPS and FURNITURE, knocking a pot over, the contents SPILLING onto her head. *

29 APPLEJACK
There, ya see. Nothing like good old fashioned dirt, eh Rarity?

30 RARITY
(simmering)
You wanted something, Spike?

31 SPIKE
Just thought you should know I still haven't found you any crinkleberries. But don't you worry. I told you I would find them and find them I shall! *

Spike darts off. Applejack looks to Rarity, confused. *

32 APPLEJACK
You have him looking for crinkleberries? *

33 RARITY
I casually mentioned how much I love to use them to dye my fabrics and he promised to find me some. *

Rarity busies herself putting away some fabrics. *

34 APPLEJACK
C'mon now. You know as well as I do that crinkleberries are near impossible to find this time of year. That poor dragon's on a fool's errand. *

Rarity stops putting away the fabrics to face Applejack. *

35 RARITY
I tried to tell him that. Even mentioned
that I didn't really need any
crinkleberries, but he insisted on
looking for them anyway.

36 APPLEJACK
Mmm-hmm. I'm sure you really put your
hoof down.
(then)
Guess you won't mind if I try telling him
to call off the search.

37 RARITY
Of course not. Though I doubt he'll
listen to you either. Trust me, he is a
very persistent little dragon.

Applejack takes this as a challenge.

38 APPLEJACK
Uh-huh. We'll see.

EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER

FLUTTERSHY sits enjoying the company of flowers and
butterflies, though she's a little distracted by Spike,
who DARTS this way and that, checking behind every bush
and, quite literally, leaving no stone unturned.

39 FLUTTERSHY
What's going on, Spike?

40 SPIKE
Sorry, Fluttershy. No time to talk.
Looking for something Rarity needs super-
badly. I'll search every inch of
Ponyville if that's what it takes.

Spike then stops to stare at Fluttershy.

41 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Ahem.

42 FLUTTERSHY
What?

Spike officiously points at her butt. Fluttershy lifts
it. Spike looks underneath it but comes up empty.

43 SPIKE
As you were.

Fluttershy sits back down. Spike looks up at an approaching RAINBOW DASH.

44 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Ooh, Rainbow Dash. Got a sec?

45 RAINBOW DASH
Sure. What's up, little man?

46 SPIKE
When you're up flying around the clouds and stuff, do you ever look down and notice anything that resembles a berry?

47 RAINBOW DASH
Uh, yeah. Berries.

48 SPIKE
How about crinkleberries? Have you seen any of those around?

49 RAINBOW DASH
Sorry.

50 SPIKE
Hmm. Alright. Well, keep an eye out for me, would ya, sport?

Just then, Applejack approaches.

51 APPLEJACK
That won't be necessary.

52 SPIKE
(excited)
Why? Did you find some?

53 APPLEJACK
No. But that doesn't mean you should keep looking. Fact of the matter is, you're 'bout as likely to find a crinkleberry as you are a fish living in an apple tree.
(then)
You could be searchin' for days. Weeks. Months even. I'm guessin' Twilight wouldn't be too happy about losin' you for that long.

Spike reacts.

54 SPIKE
Twilight!

Spike darts off. Applejack smiles, victorious.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight is engrossed in a book. She's surrounded by crates filled with them. She doesn't even look up as Spike bursts into the room.

55 SPIKE

So, so sorry. There's something very important I have to do for Rarity and it's taking me longer than I thought it would. In fact, it could take days. Weeks. Months even.

A beat. Twilight keeps reading.

56 SPIKE (CONT'D)

But I gave her my word I'd come through for her and you know how important it is for me to keep my word, so...?

Another beat. Twilight keeps reading... then finally looks over, noticing Spike for the first time.

57 TWILIGHT

Oh hey, Spike. Were you saying something?
(then)
Princess Celestia just sent me all these new books to read. You know how I get when I'm studying.

58 SPIKE

I got something I gotta to do.

59 TWILIGHT

Take all the time you need.

60 SPIKE

(fist pump)
Yes!

Spike BOLTS. Twilight gets back to reading.

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - A LITTLE LATER

Applejack stands knee deep in a MARSH, using a POOL SKIMMER NET to collect apples that have fallen off the overhanging trees. A BIRD happens by and hovers, CHIRPING.

61 APPLEJACK

(to bird)

So you think you got it good, do ya?
Well, I wouldn't trade places with you
for a minute. Scooping apples, standing
knee deep in mud... I tell ya, this is
the life.

The bird CHIRPS some more.

62 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Oh yeah? Well, I can make music too, ya
know.

Applejack lifts her feet to a beat, the SUCTION from the
mud making its own sort of strange music: SPLORTCH,
SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH... when suddenly...

A distant ROAR can be heard coming from the Everfree
Forest behind her.

63 SPIKE

(in the distance)

Help! Somebody! Hellllllp!

Alarmed, Applejack stops what she is doing and makes a
beeline for the forest.

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack runs through the woods, looking about
frantically.

64 APPLEJACK

Spike? Spike! Where are you?

ANGLE ON Spike. He's holding a branch covered with red,
crinkly berries and cowering under a giant, menacing
PANTHEON... a panther with the hooves of a boar.

65 SPIKE

O-o-o-o-over h-h-h-h-ere.

66 PANTHEON

<terrifying roar>

FADE TO BLACK.

END ACT I

ACT II

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - A MOMENT LATER

Spike is still cowering in fear as Applejack faces down the Pantheon.

67 APPLEJACK
Come and get me, ya big goon!

The Pantheon abandons Spike and begins chasing Applejack.

68 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(running away)
Now's your chance, Spike! Run!

69 SPIKE
Don't worry. I'm running! I'm running!

70 PANTHEON
<mighty roar>

Applejack flees toward a nearby PILE OF BOULDERS, with the pantheon in HOT PURSUIT.

Applejack now appears to be cornered, but then she steps behind a mound of the SMALLER BOULDERS, and - rearing and kicking - begins FIRING THEM at the pantheon, one after another in rapid succession. (NOTE: We don't see them hit the pantheon, just hear his roars and see the aftermath.)

71 PANTHEON (CONT'D)
<bewildered roar>

Soon the pantheon has a sufficient pummeling that it TURNS TAIL and FLEES back into the forest.

Spike, completely awed, rushes over to Applejack.

72 SPIKE
Wow, Applejack - that was amazing. You saved my life!

73 APPLEJACK
Aw, don't mention it. C'mon, we should be headin' on back now.

Applejack turns to go, but Spike's still blown away.

74 SPIKE
I mean you rocketed those boulders at him like they were... rockets. Pow! Pow!
Pow! Pow!

As he gestures with his arms, Applejack notes the berry-covered branch in his hand.

75 APPLEJACK
Are those, crinkleberries?

76 SPIKE
I think so. They're berries and they're pretty crinkly.
(then, to himself)
Probably should've gotten a better description from Rarity before I started looking for them.

77 APPLEJACK
But I thought I told you, ya didn't need to keep lookin' for those.

78 SPIKE
You did. But I promised Rarity I would find them, so I kept at it 'til I did.
(then re: the berries)
Better take these to her.
(then, somber)
Of course I'll also need to break the news to Twilight.

79 APPLEJACK
(confused)
What news?

80 SPIKE
I'll be right back.

Spike darts off, leaving an even more confused AJ behind.

81 APPLEJACK
(calling after him)
Whatta ya mean you'll be right back?

INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - SOON AFTER

Rarity is using her magic to drape some fabric over a mannequin. Spike bursts through the front door and presents her with the crinkleberries.

82 RARITY
(sincere)
Spike, you really didn't have to--

Spike rushes off before she can finish.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - A LITTLE LATER

Twilight is still completely absorbed in her reading, so much so that she doesn't even seem to notice Spike RUN into the room, PANTING.

83 SPIKE

Twilight, there's been a big change in my situation, and I felt it my sworn duty to keep you in the loop.

A beat. Twi keeps on reading, not even looking up.

84 TWILIGHT

Mmmmm-hmmmm.

85 SPIKE

Applejack just saved my life from a horrible, dragon-eating pantheon, and, as you are probably aware, this means I must serve her morning noon and night for the rest of my natural born days. I'm sure you understand.

A beat.

86 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Sorry to break the news to you like this, but I felt the best way to handle it was to just come out and say it.

A beat.

87 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Farewell.

(tearing up)

It's been an honor to serve you.

Spike RUSHES OUT. Twilight hasn't looked up once.

88 TWILIGHT

(turning a page)

Mmmmm-hmmmm. Sounds good. Just make sure to be back by dinner...

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - CIDER PRESS - LATER

Applejack holds a rake in her mouth and rakes up apples as Spike approaches. Spike takes the rake from Applejack.

89 SPIKE *
Have a seat. I got this. *

90 APPLEJACK *
What are you doing? *

91 SPIKE *
Raking apples. *

92 APPLEJACK *
I can see that. *
(a beat) *
Can I have my rake back now? *

93 SPIKE *
Nope. *

Spike just keeps on raking. *

94 APPLEJACK *
Seriously, I can do this myself. I *
really don't mind. *

95 SPIKE *
Don't be silly. Relax. Have an apple *
cider. Here... *

Spike RUNS O.S. and runs back with a seat for Applejack. *

Spike gestures for Applejack to sit. Applejack complies. *

Spike RUNS IN OUT OF FRAME WITH CARTOONY SPEED, setting *
Applejack up with a way to recline, a sun umbrella, *
etc... and then, finally... *

... Spike runs back with a CIDER PRESS, presses a small *
pile of apples, grabs the bucket and POURS A NICE TALL *
GLASS OF FRESHLY PRESSED APPLE CIDER for Applejack, adds *
a SPRIG OF GREEN, and serves. *

96 SPIKE (CONT'D) *
There you are. Enjoy. *
(then, like a waiter) *
Can I get you anything else? *

97 APPLEJACK *
Yeah. My rake. I'd like to get back to *
work now. *

Spike laughs. *

98 SPIKE
Oh, Applejack, Applejack, Applejack. Not
only are you a brave, life-saving pony,
you're funny, too. You've got it all.

99 APPLEJACK
Except my rake.

100 SPIKE
Shh. Relax. Spike's got this.
(then)
Here.

Spike produces a PAIR OF SUNGLASSES and puts them on
Applejack himself.

101 SPIKE (CONT'D)
For the glare.

Spike gets work. Applejack does her best to just go with
it and relax. Then...

102 APPLEJACK
You know, I don't make one big pile like
that. I make lots of small little piles
which -

103 SPIKE
Shh...

Spike keeps on raking, <HUMMING HAPPILY> to himself.
Applejack doesn't seem to be enjoying this at all.

104 APPLEJACK
Okay then... well... thanks for the help.

Applejack gets up and walks away.

105 SPIKE
Don't mention it. You saved my life.
It's the least I can do.

Looking up, Spike sees that Applejack is gone. He looks
a round, briefly panicked.

106 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Applejack?

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER

Elsewhere on the farm, Applejack is rolling hay.

Spike runs up.

107 SPIKE
There you are. Here, let me do that for
you.

Spike starts pushing Applejack out of the way.

108 APPLEJACK
Now you stop right there, Spike. What in
the great gobs of gophers has gotten into
you?

109 SPIKE
You saved my life, I must repay you in
every way I can.

110 APPLEJACK
Aw, that's real nice of you. But a simple
"thank you" will suffice.

Applejack tries to return to her hay, but Spike stops
her.

111 SPIKE
For saving my life? I don't think so.
According to the ancient Dragon Code, I
am now bound to spend the rest of my life
serving you.

112 APPLEJACK
What do you mean "the rest of your life"?
As in the "rest of your life" rest of
your life?
(then)
You can't be serious.

Spike gets a very serious look on his face.

113 SPIKE
A dragon never jokes about the Dragon
Code.

114 APPLEJACK
But--

115 SPIKE
Never.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER

Spike struggles to budge the lever on the cider press.

116 SPIKE
Argh! This is really hard.

117 APPLEJACK
Which is why you should just let me do
it.

118 SPIKE
I got this. Go away.

Applejack reacts, miffed.

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER

Spike prunes up his face while he pulls a worm from an
apple.

119 SPIKE
Okay, this is kind of gross.

120 APPLEJACK
Step aside then, sugar cube. I'm sure
you won't be breakin' your ancient Dragon
Code lettin' me deworm a couple apples.

121 SPIKE
Oh, but I would.
(then)
And I can't break the ancient Dragon
Code. I just can't. I'd never be able to
show my face in Ponyville again.
(then)
Now sit down and rest. I've got this.

122 APPLEJACK
But -

123 SPIKE
Sit!

Applejack sits.

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SOON AFTER

Spike scoops goop and muck from the bottom of a barrel.

124 SPIKE
Wow. Who knew apples could actually make
something so disgusting?

125 APPLEJACK
You're right. It is pretty disgusting.
(then, eager)
Better let me do it.

126 SPIKE
Forget about it. Sit.
(as if to a dog)
Sit. Siiiiiiiiiiiit.

Resistance is futile...

127 APPLEJACK
<exasperated sigh>

Applejack sits again.

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - LATER

Applejack and Spike are in a tug-of-war over a bundle of
hay, yanking it back and forth. (NOTE: Though Applejack
is frustrated, Spike remains eager and good-natured
throughout.)

128 APPLEJACK
Let go!

129 SPIKE
No, I have to do this for you.

130 APPLEJACK
But I like rolling hay. I like pressing
cider. I like mucking apple pulp out of
cider barrels. I like pulling worms out
of apples. I don't just like it, I love
it!

Spike lets go of the hay.

131 SPIKE
Oh, I get it.

Applejack brightens.

132 APPLEJACK
You do?

133 SPIKE

You're saying you "love" all this stuff
to get me off the hook so I don't have to
do all this work for you anymore. That's
what a nice, brave noble pony you are. It
makes me only that much more devoted to
serving you for the rest of my life.

Spike finally YANKS the bundle free from Applejack and
RUNS off toward the hay field.

134 APPLEJACK

(calling after)
I'm not lying. It's the truth. I swear!

EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER

Rarity, wearing a pink frock, sees a forlorn Applejack.

135 RARITY

Oh, hi, Applejack.

She does a little spin to show off her outfit.

136 RARITY (CONT'D)

Like the color of my new outfit? The
fabric was dyed with crinkleberries.

137 APPLEJACK

It's real nice.

138 RARITY

And where did I get those crinkleberries,
I wonder? Couldn't have been from Spike.
After all, you were going to tell him he
didn't need to look for them.

139 APPLEJACK

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. You were right. I was
wrong. He is a very persistent dragon.

Rarity gloats for a moment, then notes the genuinely
forlorn expression on her friend's face.

140 RARITY

Oh, Applejack, I'm just teasing you. You
know I don't mean anything by it.

141 APPLEJACK

S'pose I deserve a little ribbin' for
accusing you of tryin' to take advantage
of Spike.

(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

(then)

Just that ever since I saved him from
that Pantheon and he decided to dedicate
his entire life to doin' all my chores,
I've been a bit down in the dumps.

142 RARITY

Yes, well that would -- wait. What?!
Spike was attacked by a Pantheon?
(genuine concern)
He wasn't hurt was he?

143 APPLEJACK

He's fine. More than fine. Right now he's
collectin' scraps for the compost heap.

Applejack <SIGHS>.

144 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Lucky guy.

145 RARITY

Oh, I am so glad he's alright.

(then)

I knew I should have tried harder to stop
him from looking for those berries.

(then)

But I suppose part of me was looking
forward to him finding them. If anyone
was going to locate a berry that is
completely out-of-season, it's Spike.

146 APPLEJACK

Yep. When that dragon says he's gonna do
somethin'. He's gonna do it. No matter
how many times you tell him you don't
want him to.

147 RARITY

But what about Twilight? Surely she can
talk some sense into him.

148 APPLEJACK

Yeah. She seems to be a bit pre-occupied
at the moment.

FLASH TO:

INT. TWILIGHT'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

Twilight is reading. Applejack stands behind her.

149 APPLEJACK

...so, you know, if there's anything you think you could do to convince him not to follow this whole "Dragon Code", I sure would appreciate it hearing it.

Applejack waits patiently for Twilight to respond.
Nothing.

150 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Twilight? You hear what I said?

151 TWILIGHT

(distracted)

"Wagon Toad". Uh-huh. I'll take three.

FLASH BACK TO:

EXT. PONYVILLE - THE PRESENT

Applejack <SIGHS> and hangs her head.

152 RARITY

I can't help but feel partially responsible for your predicament. Spike might never have been in harm's way if I hadn't mentioned how much I adore crinkleberry dye.

(then, an idea)

And that is why I feel it is my duty to help you get out of it.

Applejack looks up, intrigued.

153 APPLEJACK

I'm listenin'.

154 RARITY

It's going to involve a bit of acting on your part.

155 APPLEJACK

Acting?

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - LATER

Rarity stands with Applejack in the woods.

156 RARITY

Okay, so the key here is for Spike to rescue you, just like you rescued him.

(MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)

That way you're both even and things can go back to the way they were.

157 APPLEJACK

Makes sense to me.

*

158 RARITY

But we must make it convincing. He's got to be thoroughly convinced the danger is absolutely real.

*

Just then, Rarity and Applejack are approached by Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy, EACH WEARING HALF OF A PANTHEON COSTUME. Rainbow Dash has the panther-head half, while Fluttershy wears the boar-behind half.

159 APPLEJACK

(re: costumes)

Uh... and this is supposed to be a what?

160 PANTHEON

A Pantheon costume.

161 RAINBOW DASH

Duh.

162 RARITY

I made it myself.

163 APPLEJACK

I thought we were trying to be convincing.

164 RAINBOW DASH

Ooh, burn!

165 FLUTTERSHY

Don't worry. We'll sell it with a terrifying roar.

They all look at Fluttershy for a beat. She SHRINKS MEEKLY.

166 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

Er... well... at least Rainbow Dash will, anyway.

167 RARITY

Now hide, quickly. Spike will be here any moment.

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy SCURRY off into the woods with their costumes. Applejack follows.

*

168 RARITY (CONT'D)
(to Applejack)
Not you! Come back here.
(then)
When Spike shows up, I want you to just
act natural but then, when I give the
signal, the "monster" will come. That's
when you get your foot stuck so Spike has
to come to your rescue.

*

169 APPLEJACK
And you'll be there to help convince
Spike to save you me case he gets to
scared to do it?

170 RARITY
Precisely.
(then)
Now remember, you must make Spike really
and truly believe you need rescuing.
Show me the your best damsel in distress
moves.

171 APPLEJACK
Uh... oh... well... how's this.

Applejack tries one..

172 RARITY
Terrible. No, it's got to be more like
this.

Rarity demonstrates a world-class swoon.

173 APPLEJACK
Oh, okay. You mean like this?

Applejack tries again.

174 RARITY
Absolutely horrendous. Okay, this needs
some serious work.
(demonstrates)
Now first you must lift your foreleg up
to your forehead like so...

175 APPLEJACK
No time! Here he comes!

Spike pushes his way through the woods into the clearing.

176 SPIKE
Rarity, what a surprise. I was expecting
see Applejack. She said she had a new
chore for me to do. I can hardly wait!

177 APPLEJACK
Over here, Spike. I was just hoping you
could maybe sweep up all these leaves for
the compost pile and -

Spike WHIPS OUT a RAKE he brought.

178 SPIKE
Ooh! I was hoping you would say that!

179 APPLEJACK
And then maybe you could -
(then, bad acting)
- oh no, I seem to have got my hoof
caught between two rocks. Perhaps I am
in peril. This is where the pantheon
almost attacked you, is it not. I am...
a damsel in distress!

Rarity shakes her head at the pitiful display.

180 RARITY
(under her breath)
Terrible. Just terrible.

181 SPIKE
Look, Applejack, if this is just another
attempt to get me off the hook for paying
you back for saving my life, I'm not
buying it. You want me to rake these
leaves or not?

182 APPLEJACK
Help... rescue me... someone...

183 RARITY
I don't know, Spike. Looks like someone
should really help her before...

Rarity SNAPS HER FINGERS behind her back. It's the
signal.... and the pantheon-costumed ponies come ROARING
into the clearing from the forest.

184 RARITY (CONT'D)
... oh no, the pantheon!

185 FAKE PANTHEON
<kinda mighty roar>

186 RARITY
Someone save Applejack! Help! Someone!

187 SPIKE
Oh please. I can see right through this act. She's fine.
(then, to Rarity, flirty)
Say, something's different. Mane parted on the other side, maybe?

188 RARITY
Why, that's awfully nice of you to noti-

189 PANTHEON (O.S.)
<truly mighty roar>

Hearing this, everyone looks around, including the ponies in the pantheon costume.

190 FAKE PANTHEON
What in Equestria was that? *

Suddenly, the REAL PANTHEON comes STORMING out of the forest into the clearing.

191 APPLEJACK
Oh no...

Applejack tries to free her leg, but it truly is stuck between two rocks.

192 RARITY
You're really stuck???

193 APPLEJACK
You said make it convincing!

194 PANTHEON
<terrifying roar>

Off Rarity and Applejack's horrified expressions we... *

END ACT II *

ACT III *

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST *

Applejack is still stuck and the Pantheon is still on the rampage. Unaware that their friend is in danger, the FAKE PANTHEON SPLITS INTO TWO as Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy both high-tail it out of there. *

195 FAKE PANTHEON
Run!

*

196 RARITY
Spike, hurry! Applejack's still stuck!
We really do need someone to save
Applejack now!

197 SPIKE
Oh puh-lease. That first pantheon was a
total bust, so now I'm supposed to
believe the second one is real. How many
fake pantheons to you have back there
anyway?
(then)
You know, your mane really looks terrific
that way. It's a nice change of pace.

198 RARITY
You think so?

199 APPLEJACK
Help?? Someone?? Anyone!!

The pantheon is closing in on Applejack.

200 RARITY
Spike now!
(nothing)
Go!
(still nothing)
Save her!

201 SPIKE
Have you considered getting your mane
layered.

202 RARITY
Uch! Forget it!

Rarity LEAPS INTO ACTION, racing into harm's way and
FREEING Applejack's leg just in time for them to both run
out of there. The pantheon gives chance. Meanwhile...

203 SPIKE
Look, I can see you guys are going all
out here but there's not a chance I'll
ever believe -

The pantheon gets right in Spike's face.

204 PANTHEON
<withering roar>

205 SPIKE
(less sure now)
Wow, you two really pulled out all the
stops...

Applejack and Rarity ZIP over and YANK Spike along with
them on their escape.

206 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Yaaaah!

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - LATER

Spike, Applejack and Rarity run through the bushes and
then duck behind one, panting.

207 RARITY
I think we lost him for now.

208 APPLEJACK
We'll wait here till the coast is clear,
then we can escape the rest of the way.

209 SPIKE
So he was real!

210 RARITY
That's what we've been trying to tell
you!

211 APPLEJACK
Shh. Keep it down or he'll hear us.

212 SPIKE
I almost let him get you, Applejack.
That's not living up to the Dragon Code!

213 APPLEJACK
Calm down, Spike. It's okay.

214 SPIKE
No it's not! I'm a terrible dragon!

215 APPLEJACK
Shh! Don't worry about it.

216 SPIKE
How can I not worry about it! After what
you did to save me then I didn't save
you. That's wretched.
(then)

(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)
Which means terrible, awful, an
abomination. Rarity taught me that word. *

217 APPLEJACK
Wonderful. Quiet please. *

218 SPIKE
How can I ever forgive myself? *

219 APPLEJACK
I'm sure there are lots of ways. *

Applejack glances over the bushes and seeks the pantheon
LURKING NEARBBY. *

220 SPIKE
Name one. *

221 APPLEJACK
Can't we talk about them later? *

222 SPIKE
I failed the Dragon Code.
(bawling)
Aah, hah, hah, hah - *

Applejack SHOVES A HOOF IN SPIKE'S MOUTH, silencing him
at the precise moment the pantheon STALKS PAST their
bush, SNIFFING and SEARCHING. *

Then, once the pantheon has PASSED A SAFE DISTANCE,
Applejack removes her hoof. *

A beat. *

223 SPIKE (CONT'D)
(bawling again)
Aah, hah hah hah - *

Applejack shoves her hoof in his mouth again. *

224 RARITY
It seems like for us to have any chance
of getting out of here safely, we must
find a way to set all this right. *

225 APPLEJACK
And how exactly do you propose we do
that? *

226 RARITY
I'm not quite sure. Maybe the what's-it-
called... Dragon Rulebook... *

227 SPIKE *
Dragon Code. *

228 RARITY *
Yes. Does it say how to fix something *
like this? *

229 SPIKE *
Not really. *

230 RARITY *
What if you save a pony's life? Would *
that take care of it? *

231 SPIKE *
I guess. Probably. *

232 RARITY *
All right then. Looks like we have to *
let Spike save us from the pantheon. *

233 SPIKE *
But there's no way. Now that I know he's *
real, I'm way too scared to take him on. *

234 RARITY *
But if you saw another pony in danger you *
might not be too scared. *

235 SPIKE *
Actually, I think I probably would. *

236 RARITY *
One way to find out for sure. *

Rarity starts climbing out from behind the bushes. *

237 APPLEJACK *
Rarity, where are you going?? That *
pantheon's still around here someplace. *

238 RARITY *
Exactly. *

Rarity steps into the clearing. *

239 RARITY (CONT'D) *
(calling out) *
Yoo hoo... pantheon... *

240 APPLEJACK *
(hissing, sotto) *
Rarity, have you lost your mind?? *

241 RARITY

If I had stopped Spike from looking for
crinkleberries in the first place like
you said, none of us would be in this
mess right now. I suppose this is the
least I can do.

(then, trotting off)

Come and get me, pantheon.

The pantheon turns and sees Rarity running.

242 PANTHEON

<ballistic roar>

Rarity FREEZES IN TERROR as the pantheon comes running.

243 RARITY

Come save me, Spike!

244 SPIKE

Uhh....

The pantheon's closing in on her.

245 RARITY

Now would be good.

Spike still hesitates - he wants to go but he's
terrified.

246 APPLEJACK

Rarity, I told you this was a terrible
idea.

247 RARITY

You're right. Changed my mind.

Rarity panics, hurrying back toward the bush where she
came from.

248 APPLEJACK

What the - ? Don't lead him back here!

249 PANTHEON

(barrelling down on them)

<deafening roar>

250 SPIKE

(snapping)

That's it!

(then, to pantheon)

I've had enough of you!

Spike picks up a small pebble and HURLS it at the pantheon as he races by them toward Rarity.

PLINK. The small pebble bounces harmlessly off the pantheon's neck. He turns toward Spike and Applejack.

251 APPLEJACK
Uh oh. Let's go.

ANGLE ON Spike glaring at him and picking up another pebble defiantly.

252 SPIKE
Had enough, punk?
(re: pebble)
Plenty more where that came from.

253 APPLEJACK
Spike, no!

ANGLE BACK ON The Pantheon BURNING WITH RAGE, leaning over toward Spike and letting loose with...

254 PANTHEON
<the nastiest and most overwhelmingly
prolonged in-your-face roar imaginable>

Undaunted by the monster's GAPING MAW, Spike leans back and THROWS the pebble... deep into the PANTHEON'S OPEN MOUTH and LODGING SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE ITS THROAT.

255 PANTHEON (CONT'D)
<roar cut off by choking noises>

Applejack, Rarity and Spike all look on as the Pantheon continues to try and dislodge the pebble, to no avail.

256 PANTHEON (CONT'D)
<more gagging and hacking noises in
unsuccessful effort to cough up pebble>

The ponies look on in amazement as the pantheon STAGGERS OVER and COLLAPSES, shaking the ground. Upon impact, the pebble is dislodged from him his throat.

257 RARITY
Spike, you did it. You saved us from the pantheon. What a brave dragon you are.

258 SPIKE
Thanks.

The pantheon STIRS SLIGHTLY.

259 SPIKE (CONT'D)
(crazed with fear)
Lets get out of here!!!

Spike BOLTS, leaving the ponies in the dust. Applejack
and Rarity exchange glances, then run to try and keep up.

EXT. PONYVILLE - A LITTLE LATER

Spike, Applejack and Rarity all head off safely toward
home.

260 APPLEJACK
You know what impressed me the most,
Spike?

261 SPIKE
That I didn't cry... much?

262 APPLEJACK
That that first pebble didn't take the
pantheon out... but you stood your ground
and the second one did.

263 RARITY
That was really something, Spike.

264 APPLEJACK
I know I've been knocking that
persistence of yours a bit lately, but
this is one instance where your
persistence paid off in a big way.

265 SPIKE
(brightening)
Yeah. I guess it did.

266 APPLEJACK
So... I suppose the Dragon Code is now
satisfied and you can... um... leave me
alone to do my work myself. By myself.
Alone.

267 SPIKE
I don't know, Applejack. I mean you did
still save my life, so...

268 RARITY
But you saved mine.

269 APPLEJACK

(re: Rarity)

And she saved mine. So I guess that means I have to serve Rarity and do all of her chores.

270 RARITY

But Spike's still supposed to do all your chores for you, right?

271 APPLEJACK

I guess that's right, huh Spike?

272 SPIKE

Um... yeah...

273 RARITY

But if Applejack's supposed to do all my chores and Spike's supposed to do all Applejack's chores, then, Spike's supposed to do all of Applejack's chores AND all of my chores. Right?

274 APPLEJACK

Right.

275 SPIKE

Um... you're losing me...

276 RARITY

But Spike saved me! So that means I have to do all of Spike's chores.

277 APPLEJACK

But if Spike's chores include my chores and your chores...

278 RARITY

Then I have to do all of our chores! But that's not fair!

279 APPLEJACK

You're right. How about we all do all of our chores. That really seems like the most logical thing.

A beat. They all look at each other blankly.

Another beat. Another beat. Another beat. Then...

280 SPIKE

Or we could forget the whole thing and just go back to being friends.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------|---|
| | 281 | APPLEJACK | * |
| Good. | | | * |
| | 282 | RARITY | * |
| Done. | | | * |
| SLAM TO BLACK. | | | * |
| END. | | | * |